

# THE



# DXer

MARCH 1989

VOL XLII - NUMBER 3

## THE (MARCH-1949) DX'ER



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
DX CLUB INC. OAKLAND, CAL.

## MARCH 1989 VOL XLII - NUMBER 3 March Events

Mar. 10 -- Regular meeting of the NCDXC, Palo Alto.

Mar. 11 -- Electronic Flea Market, Foothill College, Los Altos.

Mar. 4-5 -- ARRL DX SSB Contest.

Mar. 20 -- Deadline for Visalia DX convention advance registration.

Apr. 2 -- Deadline for April DXer input.

Apr. 8 -- Electronic Flea Market, Foothill College, Los Altos.

Apr. 21-23 -- Visalia International DX convention.

## Meeting Notice

Friday the 10th of March will be the next regular meeting of the NCDXC. The meeting will start at about 6:00 PM for dinner. The guest speaker will start promptly at 8:15 PM. The meeting will feature Kip Edwards and his talk on activating the new "country" of Rotuma.

A reminder: The April NCDXC meeting will be at the annual meeting of the Northern and Southern California DX Clubs (aka Visalia DX convention) in Visalia, CA on April 21-23, 1989.

The meetings are held at Harry's Hofbrau in Palo Alto, near the Palo Alto airport.

## DX Ladder

The Club Ladder will appear in next month's issue of the DXer. All members are invited to update their standings prior to then. New members are also invited to forward their information.

DX ladder information should be sent to KD6XY at his roster address (also listed in DXer credits).

*Larry, KD6XY*

## Antique Swap Meets

The California Historical Radio Society will again sponsor four antique radio swap meets this year. They will be held in the parking lot above the Foothill College Electronic Museum starting at 7:00 a.m. on Feb. 25, May 13, Aug. 12, and Nov. 11.

*Jim, W6CF*

## Roster Updates

### New Members:

Ed Muns, W0YK  
P.O. Box 1877  
Los Gatos, CA 95031-1877  
Home Phone: 408 739 5170  
Work Phone: 408 447 2244

James M. O'Keefe, WE6V  
1581 Inverness Circle  
San Jose, CA 95124  
Home Phone: 408 264 4987

Gilbert R. Gray, WU7R  
863 Bonde Ct.  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Home Phone: 415 462 5027  
Work Phone: 415 780 5840

### Membership changes:

James L. Hicks, KK6X  
2260 Santa Fe  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Vince E. Henley, KB6GV  
Work Phone: 408 463 2292

## Information Wanted

An effort is being made to construct a list of all Club members who were selected for the DXer of the Year Award. Ron, W6VG, has made an exhaustive search of the Club's archives and has identified 14 Award recipients. The first mention of the DXer of the Year appeared in the September 1959 issue. However, the first record of a recipient of the Award was in 1967, when Dave Baker, W6WX, was selected.

It would be appreciated if Club members would search their records and their minds and let Ron know if there were any DXer of the Year Awards made prior to 1967. In addition, the names and call signs are needed for those selected in the years which no records could be found. These years are: 1969, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1978, 1979, and 1981.

*Hal, N6AN*

## March 1949

As we sit here wondering just what to gripe about this month, the second half of the phone contest is going full blast. And what a rat race this one really is. We always thought that the CW portion of the contest could be a rugged affair but this phone business is really something to hear. The old 'S' meter on the receiver stays at a constant S9 throughout the whole U.S. portion of the phone band.

Not to detract at all from the CW part of the contest which for outright participation this year surely must have topped all previous years. During certain times on 10 and 20, the European stations were barreling through hours at a stretch.

But again this year, as we have noted in the previous contests since the war, the East Coast stations again seemed to hold the edge on all directions. Surely we, on the West Coast do not have much difficulty in contacting KH6 and KL7 and JA stations on 3.5 m.c. Just imagine the situation in the East with all those European countries which are as close or closer than the above mentioned directions which we are able to contact on 3.5 m.c. with ease. What a bunch of multipliers and contacts are possible on the East Coast. The number of European contacts which we were able to chalk up here in our area are nil if any.

It seems to us that now is the time for the League and everyone else interested to start working on the 1950 DX contest. We are not offering a cure for some of the evils which now exist and which is fast making the contest an East Coast affair but just calling it to your attention. Now when we mention the ARRL contest as fast becoming 'an East Coast Affair' we mean that the high U.S.A. contestant scorer, under the present setup, will never come from the West Coast. Oh sure, the League might argue that we are all competing on a Sectional basis but if the League were at all interested in helping the West Coast to compete on a National basis then something must be done for the 1950 contest. It is a little discouraging year after year to see the astronomical scores come forth from the East with the West Coast, due to it's geographical location, continually play second fiddle.

In all fairness, we would like the opportunity to be able to compete Nationally. Give us additional countries to add or do away with 80 for the contest but at least, GIVE US A CHANCE!

*Editor 1949 Dxer, W6PB*

## de KE6ZE

It seems sometimes that the more things change the more they stay the same. You know sometimes we read things without the content really sinking in. Having to "edit" into the *DXer* material from past *DXers*, your editor has to read the material and know what is says. Guess what? These old editorials are almost always pertinent to things going on now-a-days. The editorial by W6BP from 1949 is once again right on. How many times have the rest of you out there in reader land wondered about the wall-to-wall 5x9+ QSOs during the popular contests? Or, heard the East coast work Europeans you can't hear? More than a few is a safe bet.

Apologies are due to Gus Browning, W4BPD. His call was given incorrectly in last month's *DXer*. Suffice it to say the next time there is confusion about a call your editor won't guess.

Keep those cards and letters coming, remember what you provide is what you see in the *DXer*.

*Regards and good health to you all, Dave, KE6ZE*



## February, NCDXC Meeting

The February meeting of the NCDXC was held at Harry's Hofbrau, Palo Alto, Ca., on February 10, 1989. The President, Jerry, W8MEP, called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. Jerry extended a welcome to the visitors and then Steve, W6MKM, proceeded with the raffle. W6KH won the soldering iron and K6ITL, who states he never wins, received the Call Book. One Club member appeared with a QSL

card from 4W1G with the station worked area blank. We don't know if he was trying to raffle it off for the best price or just what his intentions were, but the recipient must have had the name "JIM" because the writing indicated some comments to JIM.

One of the NCDXC past Presidents, K6QX, became a Silent Key on January 27, 1989. A moment of silence was held for Arm.

Our visitors list was rather short: WA6HRT and his XYL, W6JZU's XYL, and our Pacific Director, Rod Stafford. Oh! The Great Kahuna appeared... words of wisdom... All NCDXC members remember the upcoming contest. The Great Kahuna has predicted great propagation for this contest. We need to retain the trophy again this year. Submit your logs to Bob, K4UVT, for this great event.

Jerry read a letter the Club received from Mr. Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, concerning his Honorary Membership into the NCDXC. Ron really appreciated his honor and hopes to continue his DX efforts.

W6CF briefed the members on the DXAC efforts. Rotuma is in, Okino Tori Shima is out. A new station, F05BI/P claiming possible new country status. No data received at HQ concerning this effort.

W8MEP explained the Bod's W6TI Repeater Controller status and his desire to get the newly authorized RC-85 controller board installed ASAP. He indicated W6JZU's volunteering for Repeater Advisory capacity, with his supporting staff consisting of AE6H, N6ST, WU6I, and KG6GF.

Plaques for NCDXC high score winners were awarded to K6MA, K6ITL, N6QR, WA8LLY, NT6G, and N6AN. K6RK received his plaque by mail. Well done Club members.

Our feature speaker for the evening was DXer Scotty, W7SW, who presented a slide presentation covering his DX efforts from Antarctic, Cocos-Keeling, Christmas Isl., Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. His trip also included side trips to Africa and Italy. Scotty, thank you for such a wonderful presentation. The Club Members really enjoyed it. When you return from your next trip to Italy, let's hope you give some spice to HV, EP, SU 5AO, 3V8. Aw, just keep hopping along and work the world wherever you can.

Alex, K16EZ, informed the members of a need for an operator for KP2A/KP5 efforts as one of their operators was lost due to an automobile accident. He also advised possible 1S1SU operations are pending for February 13th through February 17th. If

transportation by helo becomes available.

W8MEP adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, NCDXC Secretary, Thomas Jones



## Board of Directors Meeting

The NCDXC BoD Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., February 1989 at the home of N6AN. Present were Club Officers, W8MEP, N6AN, K6MA, K6RK, KG6GF, KA6W, and K6TS. AA6G also attended to brief the BoD on Repeater controller status.

The main agenda item was W6TI Repeater and its controller installation status.

The BoD listened to past history concerning the desire to update the controller and provided more security and additional capabilities. The Board was informed that the current controller installation process has stopped. There appears to be no one interested in completing the installation with the existing controller board. Additionally, the capability of this control board is questionable.

KG6GF and AA6G briefed the Board on their search for controller installation data and drawings. They have some information, but have not been able to verify the schematics and cabling drawings due to weather conditions and the need for a 4-wheel vehicle to reach the repeater site. Additionally, Larry and Chuck described a commercially supplied repeater control board, Model RC-85, which will do the job of providing the required security and control of W6TI

## Repeater System.

Based on the information received from KG6GF and AA6G, the BoD voted to purchase a new controller board, Model RC-85, and get along with the installation process.

W8MEP requested installation of the control board by mid-April. However, Larry and Chuck indicated additional time may be required to satisfy testing and burn-in time for the new control board and pre-wiring of line driver equipments.

As for the control board originally purchased for W6TI Repeater System installation, the BoD agreed to handle this matter after installation of the RC-85 control system into the W6TI Repeater is completed.

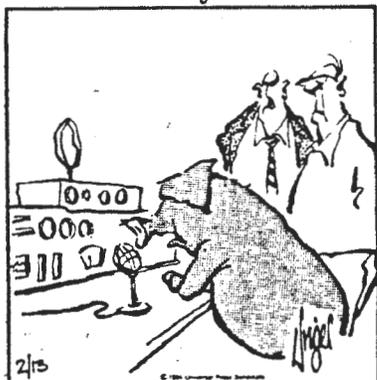
W6JZU has volunteered to head the Repeater Advisory Committee with additional help from AE6H, N6ST, WU6I, and KG6GF. The BoD did not address any form of Repeater Expansion because no one has requested linking. The matter of linking will be addressed when a request is received.

The BoD also considered a request from K6TMB to write a NCDXC letter of thanks for the recent 3W8 Viet Nam efforts. N6AN has agreed to write the NCDXC response to this request.

The BoD meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, NCDXC Secretary, Thomas F. Jones*

Herman □ James Unger



'You never seen a ham operator before?'

## Letters to the Editor

Facts, what facts? These are opinions expressed here. Any clod can have the facts, it is an art to have an opinion.

*Herb Caen, with some liberties taken.*

## CQ WW Scores

Based on score summary sheets submitted to the Contest Chairman of the NC DX Club, the following stations are eligible to have their scores counted toward the Club competition on behalf of the Northern California DX Club:

### CW Entries

#### Station & Score

WJ60 323565  
N6AN 270000  
K6DR 251765  
W6ERS 247780  
W6NKR 245905  
N6GG 243036  
K6YK 199202  
K6PU 171955  
WX6M 20909N6  
N6JM 19656  
W6YVK 19592  
W6SZN 17672

Total = 2,031,037

### SSB Entries

#### Station & Score

3D2XX 3989996  
N6GG 641654  
K6DR 306666  
WA6AHF 348195  
K6SIK 221340  
N6JM 207668  
W6ERS 129444  
GB75USA 95991  
W6YVK 32382

Total = 5,973,336

Total Club Score = 8,004,373

*Bob, K4UVT*

## Try 'em first

There is a lot of new amateur radio equipment on the market these days. How do we amateurs know which set to buy and use in our stations?

We can go to our friendly ham dealer and get an idea of what is available from the models on hand. This is in an environment of the store - which is much different from our own station environment. We we "pass the plastic" and hope for the best!

Or we find a ham who already owns a set like the one that interests us and go over for a demonstration. Another different environment.

What we hams need to do is try the set of interest at our own station and in our own environment. For at least a week in order to become somewhat familiar with the equipment and get a good idea of how it fits into our own style of operation.

Maybe I have missed something along the way but I haven't heard of this being done. I think we amateurs are entitled to try the equipment out in our own stations before we buy the equipment.

I suggest the following plan to make a trial possible. The friendly amateur dealer should make a set available for trial for one week at a time. The amateur who is going to try the set will have to demonstrate financial responsibility for the set while in his care. The use of the set means that the radio is "technically a sample or used" radio. So the dealer should be recompensed for the loss caused by selling the set as a "demo or used equipment". There should be a small yet sufficient charge on these trials to make up for the loss of value of the equipment, the cost of record keeping and so on. The small charge, say \$20.00 or \$25.00 for a week's trial would seem to me to be about right. This charge would separate those who are just curious from those who are serious about purchasing. Most amateur dealers have to make some price concessions from the list price and the charge for the week's trial could be deducted from the total cost as an inducement to buy.

In my opinion, this proposed practice would be good for the amateurs, and radio dealers and the radio manufacturers.

78, Ray, K6FD

## YASME

Dear Friends, 11 Feb 1989

We have just concluded our operation as W6QL/5NO, in Lagos, Nigeria with a total of 3000 QSO's with radio amateurs in 124 countries, operating both CW and SSB on 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters. We stayed and operated from the QTH of Cal, KH6HSS/5NO who helped us in many ways.

Before that we went to the country of Niger, but did not receive a license. There is no direct airline between the countries Niger and Nigeria. You can not legally buy and sell Nigerian money in Niger. We flew from Lagos to Sokoto, in Northern Nigeria, by plane and then took a 10 hour trip by car to Niamey, Niger. We had to change cars at the border. It was a rough car trip. We carried all our 400 lbs of equipment and belongings. We had corresponded with the licensing authorities in Niger last year and had high hopes of operating there, but did not receive authority to do it.

During the last 4 months, we had successful operations at 5B4KG (Asia), ZC4ZR (Asia), 9HIJN (Europe) and W6QL/5NO (Africa).

We hope to return to the USA in a few days and hope to see many of you at Visalia, Calif. or Dayton, Ohio.

We plan a visit soon to all 15 Republics in the USSR.

78 and 88, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG & Iris Colvin, W6QL

## Real RST

Dear Editor:

The purpose of this note is to ask help in correcting a long standing problem within the RST signal reporting scheme. Perhaps the readership of the DXer can initiate actions such as to bring about some focus on the issue.

The "R" and the "S" portion of the RST system is not problem. The "T" certainly is. Here is what it means or what it is supposed to mean now:

According to the 1979 ARRL Radio Amateurs Handbook, 22-5, "T" is defined as follows:

- T1 - Sixty cycle AC or less, very rough and broad
- T2 - Very rough AC very harsh and broad
- T3 - Rough AC tone, rectified but not filtered
- T4 - Rough note, some trace of filtering
- T5 - Filtered rectified AC but strongly ripple-modulated
- T6 - Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation

- T7 - Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
- T8 - Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
- T9 - Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

I think that most Hams (CW Ops, anyway) will agree that the "T" choice listed above is very inadequate in today's technology. It needs to be upgraded, to have meaning so that a report of T-4 or T-5 means something. I, therefore, suggest the following as a proposed start toward a revision of the "T" definition.

- T1 - Unstable, check transmitter at once
- T2 - Hum on Note (probably power supply related)
- T3 - Watery (aurora or polar affect - not an equipment issue but rather one of propagation.)
- T4 - First part of first character cut off (probably by VOX)
- T5 - Dual tones (probably J2A emission with carrier present)
- T6 - Clicks and chirps
- T7 - Chirps
- T8 - Clicks
- T9 - Perfect signal

The order of the above "T" report is arbitrary. Perhaps a majority of CW Ops should decide on the final order.

No doubt that a T-3 report would take some getting used to. But one one got used to the idea that something meaningful was being conveyed, I think it would catch on.

In order to gain the attention of the appropriate authorities on this issue, we CW Ops need to voice our dissatisfaction with the present system. Perhaps if enough of us raise the issue with the various amateur radio organizations, we can bring about an improvement from which all CW Ops (and prospective CW Ops) can derive benefits.

Thank you for your consideration and help.

*78, Ken Archbold, W6TMA*

**de K5YY**

Dear Dave:

Just a brief note that I enjoy receiving the "DXer." Work activity prevents my being on the air as much as I desire, but still manage to chase new ones on CW-Hi. Luckily have managed to keep 'em all

worked with Rotuma, etc., on SSB/mixed. Still need one for CW Honor Roll. Miss the DXpeditions, but anything useful would take 2-3 weeks and I just don't have that kind of free time as I did 5-6 years ago. I know of 3-4 islands/reefs that should easily qualify for new countries. 10-12 years ago, I would already have activated one or two. That's how difficult it is to cut loose from work. Continued growth and prosperity for the NCDXC. I miss the big W6 DX gatherings. Say hello to all. p *San, K5YY, Honorary Member 1988*

**de W6RGG**

Editor,

As Trustee of the NCDXC Club Station, W6TI, I read with great interest the references to the Repeater Committee in the BoD Minutes.

As a long-time member and past-President of the NCDXC, I wonder why I never see any reference to the BoD trying to determine why "the Repeater Chairman and all members of the Repeater Committee have resigned."

A further question of perhaps even greater import, is why one or more of those long-time members of the Club have also not chosen to renew their membership.

Does the BoD have a policy which requires it to determine why members choose to let their membership lapse? Perhaps such a policy could avoid the establishment of a trend of such occurrences and point the way toward the establishment of new policies and procedures.

At the present, I have only questions. Perhaps the answers will be brought to my attention - perhaps not.

*Bob Vallio, W6RGG/W6TI*

**GB5DX**

Editor DXer:

DARC is now operating GB5DX for contest period through March. Hope to QSO the NCDXC members.

*78, Jerry, G0CLY, K6SMH*

## Orman Meyer, Silent Key

Orman F. Meyer, 69, of Los Gatos, and engineer at an IBM "think tank" for 21 years and a World War II radio operator and naval and air navigator, died Jan. 27 at Casa Serena Convalescent Hospital.

Mr. Meyer was a former president of the Northern California DX Ham Radio Club and was a member of the group's Century Club. He also was a member of the IBM Retirement Club.

Survivors besides his wife, Lorraine E. Meyer, are a son and daughter, Bruce F. Meyer of San Jose, and Ellen C. Frigon of Los Gatos.

Private inurnment was through Brunner's West Valley Chapel.

## THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB, INC. PO BOX 608, MENLO PARK, CA 94028

The *DXER* is the bulletin of the NCDXC and is published monthly for the benefit of its members. Permission to use any portion of this publication is hereby granted, provided credit is given to the *DXER*.

### NCDXC OFFICERS

President: Jerry Griffin, W8MEP  
Vice President: Larry Souza, KG6GF  
Secretary: Tom Jones, K6TS  
Treasurer: Stan Kuhl, K6MA  
Director: Ted Algren, KA6W  
Director: Hal Godfrey, N6AN  
Director: Chuck Patterson, K6RK

### DXER STAFF

Editor: Dave Engle, KE6ZE  
Production: Ron Panton, W6VG  
DX Ladder: Larry Bloom, KD6XY  
NCDXC Data Base: Martin Oppenheimer, KB6BW

Send *DXER* contributions to:

Dave Engle  
1063 Summerwood Court  
San Jose, CA 95132  
or, if you have internet access, to:  
engle@wdl1.fac.ford.com

Send DX ladder reports to:

Larry Bloom  
2520 Heather Lane  
San Bruno, CA 94066

### NCDXC REPEATER W6TI/R

Input 147.36 Mhz; Output 147.96 Mhz; Simplex 147.45 Mhz

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

Repeater Committee Chairman:

### NCDXC THURSDAY NIGHT NET

On W6TI/R Thursday at 8:00 PM local time.

Operations Manager: Ralph Hunt, AG6Q

DX News: Phil Garrahan, W6LQC

Propagation: Al Lotze, W6RQ

Contest News: Bob Dorse, K4UVT

Westlink: Dave Bottom, KD6AZ

Swap Shop: Ben Deovlet, W6FDU

933 Robin Lane, Campbell, CA, 95008  
408/374-0372

QSL Information: Jan O'Brien, K6HHD

### NCDXC DX BULLETIN BROADCASTS

Trustee: Bob Vallio, W6RGG

W6TI, the NCDXC memorial station broadcasts DX bulletins each Sunday at 1800 PST (Monday 0200 UTC) on 7.015 Mhz and 14.002 MHz.

## The Big Five

Factors for Superior Performance:

- RIG -- Type of Equipment (brand names, models and/or operating position layout).
- ANTENNA -- Antenna type, brand name, number of elements, type of tower, quality of coax, rotators, etc.
- SKILL -- Operating skill of station operator.
- QTH -- Quality of station antenna site vs obstructions, height above average terrain or ground conductivity.
- POWER -- RMS transmit power at the antenna terminals.

Big-5 priorities, as seen by:

Joe Ham:

Rig  
Antenna  
Power  
QTH  
Skill

Bourgeois DXer:

Rig  
Antenna  
Skill  
QTH  
Power

Bourgeois Contester:

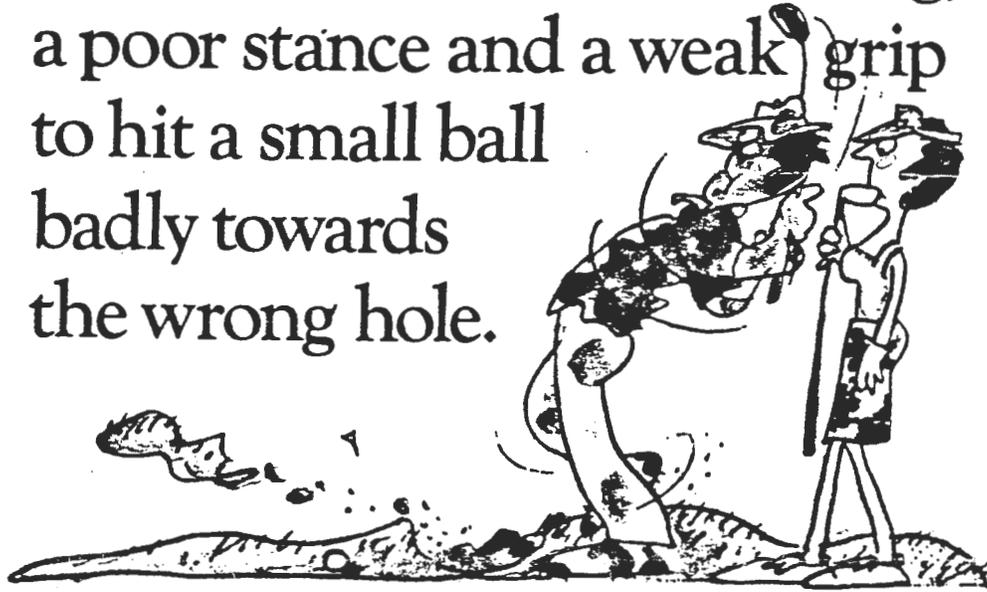
Skill  
Rig  
Antenna  
QTH  
Power

Serious Pile-Up Smasher:

Power  
QTH  
Skill  
Antenna  
Rig

Note - It appears that the Bourgeois DXer may be last in the pile-up (just behind the Bourgeois Contester).

**golf·ing** (golf'ing), 1.n.  
the art of using a flawed swing,  
a poor stance and a weak grip  
to hit a small ball  
badly towards  
the wrong hole.



**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International  
DX Convention  
Golf Tournament**

↙  
If interested, please  
contact AG6Q/Raeph  
or Bob/K4UVT, both  
good in the NCDXC  
Roster.

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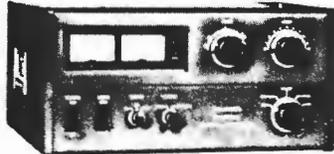
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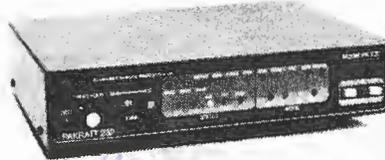


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**FIRST CLASS**

**FIRST CLASS**

**FIRST CLASS**

**MARCH 1989**